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types of the prevailing weather for December, January, and February. And the first twelve days of January control the year in like manner.

If it has been rainy for some days, and then clears off in the night, this change, however promising, is wholly unreliable. The weather is not to be considered as settled until the clearing up process is repeated in open day, after which only the condition can be permanent.

Among the great mass of household superstitions may be mentioned a few by way of illustration. If a dish-cloth is dropped on the floor, a visitor may confidently be expected on that day. If a cock crows in the open door, the same result will follow. If any one at table by mistake take an article of food while he has a supply of the same article on his plate, a visitor is at hand who will come hungry.

Dr. Johnson analyzed his dreams in order to discover the undercurrent or bent of his waking thoughts ; so we may analyze, in some degree, even the most absurd or grotesque superstitions, to find on what they are based or from what they arise. If we do this, we shall find that the basis and texture of superstition consist in the following ideas and convictions : that man's destiny is influenced, and in part determined, by hidden powers above and around him ; that he is not, therefore, in his own absolute care and keeping ; that the controlling forces, whatever they are, under which he lives, can foreshadow the future and reveal objects and events to come ; that they thus far transcend the limits of human intelligence, which can hardly see anything in advance, and "knoweth not what a day may bring forth."

J. C. Wells.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

BURIAL OF THE WREN. — (See No. xxii., 1893, p. 231.) In reference to the old English custom of the Burial of the Wren, and the discussion relating to this ceremony, in which we have been greatly interested, it may be said, on the authority of Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, that a corresponding rite still exists in Tusayan pueblos, namely, the Burial of the Eagle, a description of which might elucidate the English custom, and of which he hopes hereafter to obtain an account.

A NEGRO BALLAD. — The following rhyme was obtained from an old colored woman in Albemarle County, Va. : —

1. Olde woman, she do me so, —
How wow wow !
Old woman, she do me so, —
How wow wow !
Hooray blow ! how wow wow,
Hooray blow ! how wow wow !
2. She saddle me, bridle me, —
3. She boot me and spur me, —
4. She ride me a fox-hunting, —
5. She ride down hillside, —
6. Old b'ar he clamp me, —